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REPORTS PROGRESS MADE ON "GEORGI DIMITROV" AND "VASIL KOLAROV" DAMS IN BULGARIA

DESCRIBES NEW "GEORGI DIMITROV" DAM -- Sofia, Vecherni Novini, 3 Aug 51

The erection of the large "Georgi Dimitrov" Dam on the Tundzha River was begun in 1948.

The construction of the dam's wall has already begun. The wall of the dam, which will be 40 meters above the present level of the river, is planned to be 640 meters long, and its base is to be 80 meters wide. On the outer side, the wall will be built in terraces and will enclose a surface of about 8,000 decares of land, over the surface of which 0 million cubic meters of water will be stored. The wall, built on the So t pattern, is made of reinforced concrete, stone blocks, and fill. The Soviet specialists in dam construction, Professor Moyseev, Engineer Lofitski, and Engineer Kriger, were the consultants.

The concrete plant, which supplies 40 cubic meters of concrete to the dam every 24 hours by means of a conveyer belt, is located near the dam. The concrete plant obtains its raw materials from the sifting installation, which can supply 160 cubic meters of sifted, washed, and sorted material daily.

A water tower, which will control the gate valves of the three vertical tunnels will be built in front of the dam. One tunnel, 5 meters in diameter, will conduct water to the hydroelectric power plant at the foot of the wall. This power plant will have a capacity of about 8,000 kilowatts. The water from the other two tunnels will be emptied into the old river bed. Each tunnel will have a diameter of 4.2 meters and will serve to clean the water in the lake. The safety gate of the dam is being built at the side of the wall. When the water of the Tundzha River rises up through the safety gate and overflows, it will flow out through a canal and will be directed toward the old river bed.

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The water will flow from the hydroelectric power plant through a main canal 26 kilometers long and through a secondary canal, which has a capacity of 6 cubic meters of water per second, toward the Kazanluk Plain. The main canal, which passes along the northern slopes of the Sredna Gora Mountain, will be lined with small concrete blocks. It will have a depth of 3.2 meters and a capacity of 22 cubic meters of water per second. Thus far, 12 kilometers of this canal have been excavated. A part of the excavated canal bed is already lined with concrete blocks. Eighty bridges and installations have already been built over it and along its side. The secondary canal, which is to be 12 kilometers long with an opening of 18 square meters, goes as far as Yagodovo, where it enters a tunnel in the mountain. The canal leaves the tunnel west of Stara Zagora. The tunnel is being dug from opposite ends and through two windows. About 4 kilometers have already been excavated.

The waters will reach the outgoing end of the tunnel under pressure and will flow from a height of 137 meters into the turbines of a second hydroelectric power plant, which will have a capacity of about 20,000 kilowatts. The main irrigation canal for the Stara Zagora Plain will start at this power plant. A great number of auxiliary and secondary irrigation canals will cover the 500,000-decare Stara Zagora Plain.

It is possible that another dam, the "Gyurlya," will be constructed 1.5 kilometers westward and contiguous with the "Georgi Dimitrov" Dam. This second dam would be erected on one of the right tributaries of the Tundzha River, and its waters would run into the lower lake. In this way, a mighty reservoir would be formed to hold about 300 million cubic meters of water. This possibility is now being studied.

By the end of 1953, the gate valves of the dam will be closed, and the lake will begin to fill up. In the spring of the same year the waters of the Tundzha River will start flowing through the canals, along the slopes of Surnena Gora (mountain), into the Stara Zagora Plain.

"VASIL KOLAROV" DAM TO BE COMPLETED IN 1951 -- Sofia, Izgrev, 4 Jul 51

The "Vasil Kolarov" Dam, located 23 kilometers from the village of Batak on the Kriva River in the Rhodope Mountains, is almost completed. Seven kilometers upstream from the dam is the "Vasil Kolarov" Reservoir, which extends over an area of 6,500 decares. Engineer Yordanov is in charge of the dam's construction.

A road, 5 meters wide, will pass over the dam and continue to Dospat. The old road has been inundated by the reservoir. Two sidewalks, each 1.5 meters wide, will be on both sides of the new road on top of the dam. The dam is 70 meters wide at the base, 200 meters long, and will be as high as a 12-story building. The Soviet specialists Moyseev and Lofitski are supervising its construction.

Since the waters of the Kriva River are not sufficient to fill the reservoir, water from the little Beglishka River will also flow into it. For that purpose its tributaries the Suisuza, Semiza, and Karachomak will be diverted and brought to the reservoir by a 6.5-kilometer canal. At six places the canal goes far underground. The longest tunnel, No 4 (1,648 meters), has presented great difficulties to the builders, but only 30 meters remain to be completed.

In the spring of 1949, the reservoir had a trial filling and the fields of the following villages were irrigated: Ustina, Perushtitsa, Kozarsko, Krichim, Novo Selo, Brestovitsa, Yakimgruevo, Purvenets, and Kadievo. The reservoir, which was still under construction in 1949, provided about 15 million cubic meters of water for the fields of the above villages.

In 1950, the reservoir was filled again for trial purposes. This year, the reservoir is being filled permanently. The reservoir has a capacity of 65 million cubic meters of water. Thus, the 130,000 decares to be irrigated will be assured of 500 cubic meters of water per decare. The water of the reservoir will not only be used for irrigation purposes, but also by the "Vucha" Hydroelectric Power Plant for power production.

The dam will be completed by the end of 1951, at the latest.

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